

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 AGRE-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00

FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-15 TRSE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06

SP-02 CIEP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 /065 W

-----070758Z 100485 /13

R 070727Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4602

UNCLAS MANILA 0314

PASS USDA/FAS, MCCONNELL, SUGAR & TROPICAL PRODS, FCA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, RP

SUBJ: AIDS TO PHILIPPINE SUGAR INDUSTRY

1. DURING PAST TWO MONTHS GOP OFFICIALS HAVE HELD NUMEROUS MEETINGS WITH SUGAR PRODUCERS TO DISCUSS CURRENT DEPRESSED SUGAR SITUATION AND ENCOURAGE FARMERS PRODUCING CANE ON MARGINAL LANDS TO DIVERSIFY INTO OTHER CROPS. TO DISPEL FEARS OF SUGARCANE PLANTERS THAT LANDS SHIFTED TEMPORARILY OR PERMANENTLY TO OTHER CROPS WOULD NOT BE SUBJECT TO LAND REFORM, PRESIDENT MARCOS ISSUED A DECREE WHICH PROVIDES THAT QUOTE ALL LANDS WHICH WERE PREVIOUSLY DEVOTED TO SUGARCANE PRODUCTION AND WHICH SHALL BE SHIFTED TO THE PRODUCTION OF RICE, CORN, FEEDGRAINS, COTTON, FRUITS AND VEGETABLES, LIVESTOCK AND SUCH OTHER CROPS AS MAY BE DESIGNATED HEREAFTER BY THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES SHALL BE EXEMPTED FROM THE LAND REFORM PROGRAM AS EMBODIED IN PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 27 AS AMENDED, PROVIDED, THAT THESE LANDS ARE NOT WORKED BY TENANT FARMERS UNDER A SYSTEM OF SHARECROP OR LEASE-TENANCY AS DEFINED IN PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 27. PARA. FOR PURPOSES OF IMPLEMENTING THIS DECREE, THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE SHALL CERTIFY AS TO THE PREVIOUS PLANTING OF ALL AFFECTED LANDS TO SUGAR AND ITS SHIFT TO THE HEREINABOVE DESIGNATED CROPS. END OF QUOTE.

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2. TO SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGE THE SHIFTING TO OTHER CROPS, THE DEVELOPMENT BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES ANNOUNCED THAT IT IS READY TO EXTEND PRODUCTION LOANS TO SUGARCANE PLANTERS WHO DIVERSIFY INTO OTHER CROPS APPROVED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE. THE AMOUNT EARMARKED FOR THIS PURPOSE IS YET TO BE DECIDED.

3. THE NATIONAL GRAINS AUTHORITY WILL ALSO SUPPORT THE DIVERSIFICATION PROGRAM BY ENSURING A MARKET FOR RICE AND CORN PRODUCED. NGA WILL ALSO EXTEND LOANS TO PLANTERS UNDER THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL BANK GUARANTEE SO THAT THEY WILL BE ABLE TO CONTINUE SUPPLYING THEIR WORKERS WITH RICE.

4. THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR WARNED THAT IT MAY HAVE TO USE STRONG MEASURES TO FORCE EMPLOYERS TO PAY WORKERS'S WAGES. IN VIEW OF THE POTENTIALLY LARGE NUMBERS OF WORKERS, ESTIMATED AT ABOUT 150,000, WHICH MAY BE OUT OF WORK WHEN CURRENT MILLING SEASON TAPERS OFF, AT THE END OF APRIL OR MID-MAY, THE SECRETARY OF LABOR HAS INSTRUCTED HIS STAFF TO DEVELOP A PROGRAM TO GENERATE EMPLOYMENT FOR SUGARCANE WORKERS.

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SUGAR, AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, POLICIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 07-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770006-0970
Format: TEL
From: MANILA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770172/aaaacksr.tel
Line Count: 76
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 139630dc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3645622
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AIDS TO PHILIPPINE SUGAR INDUSTRY
TAGS: EAGR, EIND, RP
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/139630dc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009